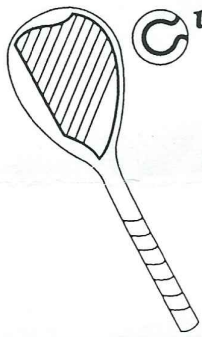


Mr. A. Brassey's at Heythrop.
 Mr. Cazalet's at Fairlawn.
 Mr. Gundry's at Bridport.
 Lord Iveagh's in Dublin.
 Mr. McClean's at Rustall, Tunbridge Wells.
 Mr. Heilbut's at Hollyport, near Maidenhead.
 Lord Bute's at Falkland Palace, Fife.
 Sir A. Noble's at Jesmond Dene House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 Mr. C. D. Rose's at Hardwick House, near Pangbourne.

The next World Championship match took place in 1890. Charles Saunders, a great stylist from Prince's Club, had established himself as the top British player by defeating George Lambert in a home-and-home match at Prince's and Lord's in 1886. He then challenged Pettitt, and in a bid for complete fairness a most extraordinary match was arranged. It was to be played on Sir Edward Guinness' court at St Stephen's Green, Dublin, which had marble walls, with French balls and no practice allowed on the court beforehand. In these curious conditions, Saunders gained an

REFERENCES
 TO THE COURT
 IN PUBLICATIONS
 FROM EARLY CENTURY.



Comann Leadóige na h-Éireann

**IRISH
 REAL TENNIS
 ASSOCIATION**

TENNIS
 LDEST
 COURT

(Sometimes known as "Real" or "Royal" Tennis).
 The oldest of the 45 recorded Tennis Courts in the British Isles is the Royal Tennis Court at Hampton Court Palace, Middlesex, built by Henry VIII in 1530 and rebuilt by Charles II in 1660. The only closed court in Ireland built at St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, by Sir Edward Guinness in 1885 is now owned by the Eireann Office of Public Works, but has not been in use since 1940.

GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS 1957

TENNIS.

TENNIS COURTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

Lord Iveagh's, in Dublin.

WE KNOW from the *Annals* that tennis was played in Ireland in 1610 from the famous account of the brawl in the court at Thomas-street, and in old sketch maps of Dublin there is found a Tennis Court lane clearly marked. To-day none of the old courts survive, and the only one of modern times is that belonging to Lord Iveagh at 80, St. Stephen's-green, Dublin. The court was built from plans of the Canford court (1879) lent by Lord Wimborne, and was opened for play in April, 1885.

The exterior of the court is of red brick; the inner walls up to the playing line and the floor are of black Irish marble, which was obtained from two quarries opened for the purpose at Mern Park, co. Galway. Some of the marble slabs are very large, all the gallery wall being formed of single slabs, varying in width from 3ft. to 4ft. The largest slabs are in the floor, one of them measuring 11ft. 6in. by 6ft. The average thickness is 2in. A marble tennis court is unique in the British Isles, and I know of no other tennis court, present or past, where marble has been used, though it has been tried, and with success, at the Malta racket-court.

Then again in 1885 probably no slabs of such a size had been employed before. The average stone floors are laid in slabs of some 6ft. by 3ft., but in Bickley's modern composition floor all this has been changed, and the slabs here in the floor all measure over 15ft. square. The length of a modern court is 96ft. 4in. by 30ft. 6in. at ceiling wall and 30ft. at grille wall, and only twelve slabs are used. They thus measure roughly 16ft. 1in. by 15ft.

The marble at Dublin is a very hard, close, fine-grained stone, very hard to work. It does not chip or flake, and is very rich in line. As a playing surface it has proved successful, walls and floor being uniform in pace; it is fast judged by the standard of ten years ago, but not so fast as a modern court. The ball comes very square out of the angles. At first the walls and floor were polished, but in this case the court was not so satisfactory, for the ball "slithered" along the walls and would not leave them, and it would not take the cut, so that it was almost impossible to lay down a short chase with a stroke of fast trajectory. The polished surface was, therefore, removed by sand rubbing, leaving the marble in its raw state, and now, instead of being black, it may be described as dark grey. The light is given from top lighting which runs from end to end of the court and two-thirds of the width. St. Stephen's Green is not so well known as several of the private courts, but a number of well-known players have been seen there, and it will always be famous as the one and only private court in which a championship match has been played since the championship took anything like its present form. This match was in 1890, and a few words as to the events leading up to it may be given here. In 1885 Tom Pettitt, of Boston, had beaten George Lambert for the championship at Hampton Court; in the next year Charles Saunders, then at old Prince's, beat George Lambert for the championship of England, and from this time he became the leader of English tennis. In 1890, after considerable difficulties, and, it must be added, some bickering, a match between Pettitt and Saunders was fixed up. The question of court was one of the main difficulties. In the end it was agreed to play the match at St. Stephen's Green, but with the extraordinary proviso that no practice whatever should be allowed in the court. There was even to be no "pelotage" on the first day of the game, and when the balls were unsealed, Saunders, who won the toss, started the game with an underhand twist service.

The English player at the time was master of all the highest arts of correct and traditional tennis. No one in the world past or present could probably play a more brilliant set than Charlie, and a great struggle was seen in the match. On the first day Saunders won three of the four sets played, and winning the first on the second day put him in the very strong position of 4 sets to 1; but then Pettitt's physique and great match-playing powers told their tale, and he drew level at 4 sets all. On the third day he won the first two sets and the fourth, and so secured the match by 7 sets to 5. The full score is given below.

Pettitt resigned the championship after his victory, and Saunders was regarded as champion until 1895, when Latham defeated him.

American court tennis. The only court in the South opened at Aiken, South Carolina, in 1903. The Boston Tennis and Racquet Club court on Boylston Street opened in 1904, the Philadelphia court in 1907, and the two courts of the New York Racquet and Tennis Club at 170 Park Avenue in 1918. In 1915 the Whitney family outdid not only the French and

English kings but also the Guinness family, whose Dublin court was made of black marble, by building the most palatial of courts, at Manhasset, L.I., at a reputed cost of \$250,000.

Professionals were needed to look after these courts, to teach the game, to mark matches, string rackets and cover balls. They

today. In America a second court was built in Boston in 1888 by The Boston Athletic Association. In Ireland Sir Edward Guinness built a court in Dublin in 1885 at 80 St. Stephen's Green. It was a remarkable court, made of blue marble, and it provided a neutral court for the next championship match in 1890, between Pettitt and an Englishman, Charles Saunders, the professional at Prince's Club. Pettitt won by seven sets to five, but immediately afterwards resigned the title and Saunders became champion.